



DENISE MERRILL

SECRETARY OF THE STATE

CONNECTICUT

**Judiciary Committee
Public Hearing Testimony
February 24, 2014**

H.B. No. 5216: AN ACT ADOPTING THE UNIFORM CERTIFICATE OF TITLE FOR
VESSELS ACT

The Secretary of the State is offering comment on this bill because the bill addresses vessel liens, which presently are filed on the public registry maintained by the Secretary. The Secretary was represented on the Legal Advisory Committee to the Law Revision Commission and had input regarding this bill. Essentially, the bill will take a very small proportionate share of filings -- these vessel liens -- and require that they be filed in the future at the Department of Motor Vehicles. This transfer of public record filing represents an insignificant fiscal impact to the Office of the Secretary, with an overall net neutral fiscal impact to the General Fund, because the fee revenue for filing at the Department of Motor Vehicles will offset the lost fee revenue at the Office of the Secretary of the State. The Secretary has no further direct interest in this bill and does not oppose it.